

**MINUTES
TRAVERSE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION AND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JOINT STUDY SESSION**

**TUESDAY, December 15, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
Governmental Center, 2nd Floor
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, Michigan 49684**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER- Chairperson Serratelli called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Luick called roll for the Planning Commission.

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Dow, Janet Fleshman, Gary Howe (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Linda Koebert, Ross Richardson, Chairperson John Serratelli, Jim Tuller, Janice Warren (arrived at 6:39 p.m.), and Camille Weatherholt

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Russ Soyring, Planning Director; Missy Luick, Planning and Engineering Assistant

Mr. Vaughn called roll for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

PRESENT: Commissioners Brooke DiGiacomo, Gary Howe (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Matthew Ross, Danielle Rearick and Chairperson Margaret Szajner

ABESNT: Commissioner John Gessner

STAFF: Lauren Vaughn, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS- None.

4. DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION 5-YEAR PLAN (DISCUSSION)

Mr. Vaughn gave an overview of the schedule for the update to the Parks and Recreation 5-Year plan.

Mr. Vaughn distributed the draft Goals and Objectives section and briefly summarized them.

Commission discussion.

Mr. Vaughn explained the approval process of the Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan.

Commissioner Warren arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Commission discussion regarding possible expansion of Parks and Recreation programs took place. Demand for services estimates and park use metrics were discussed as data that may be useful. Additional discussion regarding the goals and objectives included within the draft Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan were discussed.

Commissioner Howe arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Commission discussion included lack of available funds for park improvements. The Brown Bridge Trust Fund is now an avenue for improvements but requires a 50:50 match. Commission discussion regarding prioritizing neighborhood park improvements and a discussion regarding how particular parks are identified for improvements over others. Discussion regarding park planning and design took place and the need for "park plans" that have had public engagement/input for each park within the city.

Commission discussion regarding parking lot "parks" like Lot B (the Farmer's Market) and the parking lot next to the post office took place. The idea of possibly selling parkland and possibly acquiring parkland in underserved areas was discussed.

5. HICKORY HILLS MASTER PLAN (DISCUSSION)

Mr. Vaughn stated that the Hickory Hills Master Plan was presented to the City Commission on June 2, 2014. He summarized the year-round use plans for the park. The plan includes the designs of the proposed summer and winter activities. There is a Hickory Hills Advisory Committee that includes members from Preserve Hickory, Grand Traverse Ski Club, the City of Traverse City, Garfield Township and various other organizations.

Preserve Hickory is the fundraising group for improvements to Hickory Hills and they have raised \$375,000 to date toward the \$1.5 million match to acquire the \$1.5 million Brown Bridge Trust Funds monies.

Discussion regarding a business plan for Hickory Hills would be beneficial to outline the ongoing long-term maintenance costs. Likely with the improvements and expansion to a year-round facility, staffing levels would need to increase.

It was discussed that a joint meeting of both Commissions should occur once or twice a year to continue to discuss park planning.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

7. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 5, 2016

Jan Warren ps
Jan Warren, Planning Commission Secretary

